

**COAL NONFATAL**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

District 9

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION  
(Underground Coal Mine)

NONINJURY COAL MINE OUTBURST (BOUNCE) ACCIDENT

L. S. Wood Mine (ID No. 05-00300)  
Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.  
Redstone, Pitkin County, Colorado

October 17, 1980

by

Lee H. Smith  
Coal Mine Inspector

Originating Office - Mine Safety and Health Administration  
Drawer J, 575 East First South, Price, Utah 84501  
Jensen L. Bishop, Subdistrict Manager

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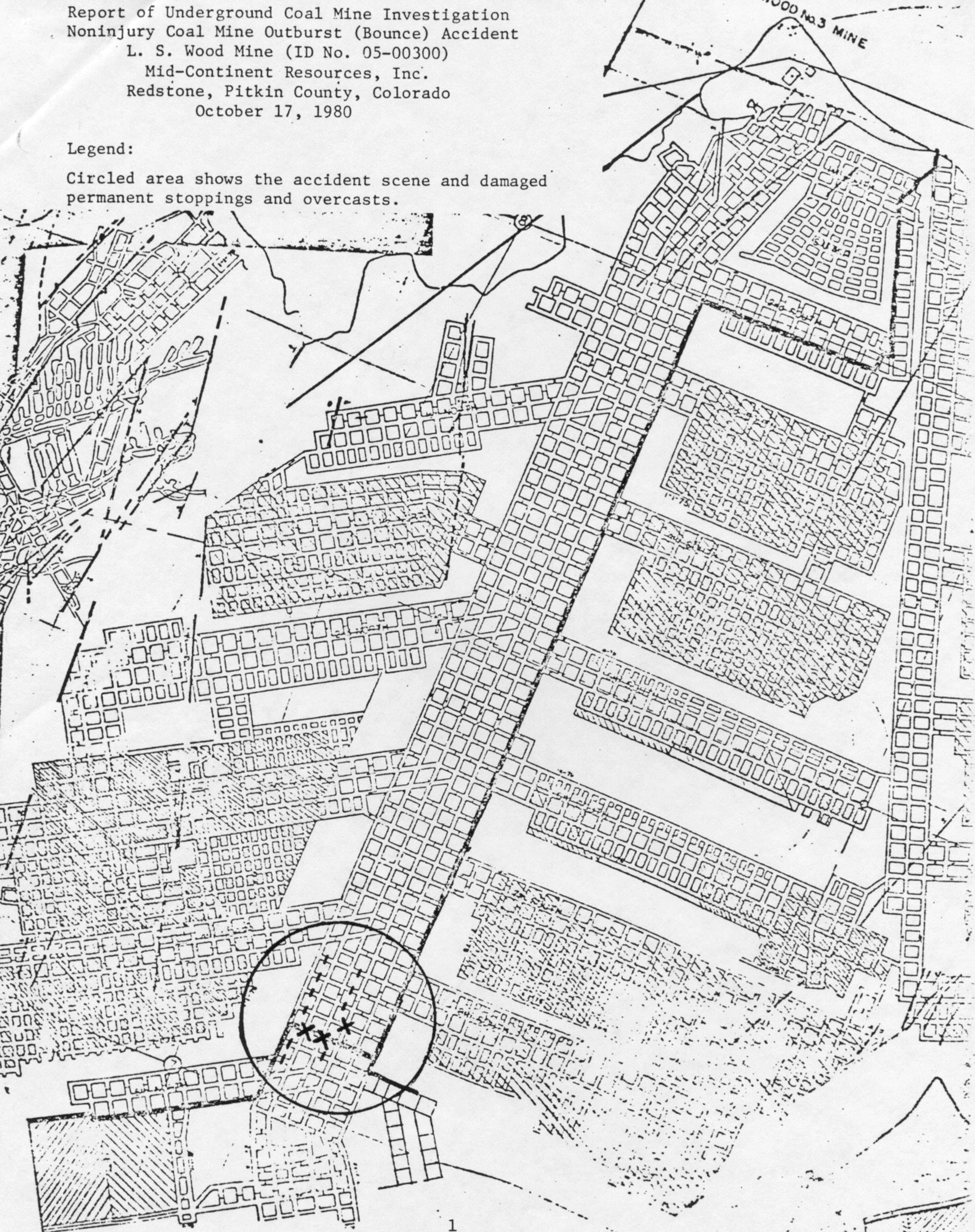
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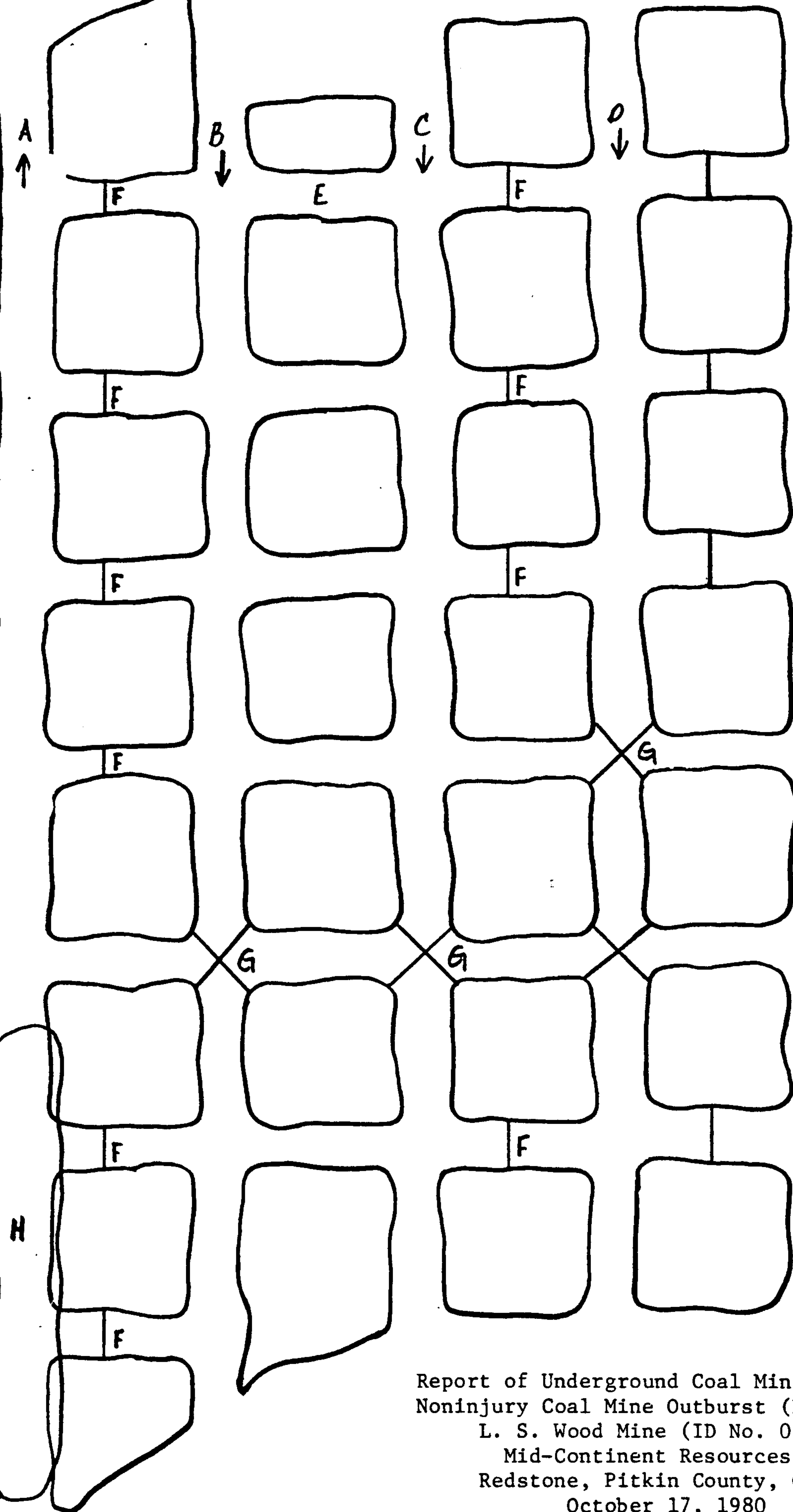
Report of Underground Coal Mine Investigation  
Noninjury Coal Mine Outburst (Bounce) Accident  
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Legend:

Circled area shows the accident scene and damaged permanent stoppings and overcasts.







(Not drawn to scale)

Legend:

- A - No. 6 slope return air course
- B - No. 5 slope intake air course
- C - No. 4 slope intake air course and track haulage slope
- D - No. 3 slope intake air course and conveyor belt slope
- E - Crosscut No. 54
- F - Damaged permanent stoppings
- G - Damaged overcasts
- H - Area where the damage was the most severe

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# Abstract of Investigation

U.S. Department of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration



## Authority —

This report is based on an investigation made pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, Public Law 95-173, as amended by Public Law 95-164.

### SECTION A — IDENTIFICATION DATA

(Bounce)  
1. Title of investigation: Non-injury Outburst Accident  
2. Date MESA investigation started: October 22, 1980  
3. Report release date: December 16, 1980  
4. Mine: L. S. Wood  
5. Mine ID number: 05-00300  
6. Company: Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.  
7. Town, County, State: Redstone, Pitkin Co., CO  
8. Author(s): Lee H. Smith

### SECTION D — ORIGINATING OFFICE

18 Mine Safety and Health Administration  
Coal Mine Health and Safety District No.: 9  
Address: Drawer J, Price, UT 84501

### SECTION B — MINE INFORMATION

9. Daily production: 1,345 tons  
10. Surface employment: 6  
11. Underground employment: 101  
12. Name of coalbed: Coal Basin "B"  
13. Thickness of coalbed: 84 inches

### SECTION C — FACTORS IN THE ACCIDENT FREQUENCY RATE (FSR) FOR

14. Industry: 11.50  
15. This operation: 18.95  
16. Training program approved: Yes  
17. Mine Profile Rating: 741

### SECTION E — SUMMARY

On Friday, October 17, 1980, about 7:45 p.m., an outburst of coal (bounce) occurred in the No. 6 slope of L. S. Wood Mine, Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. No personal injury was reported. The accident occurred because of the overburden which is in excess of 2,000 feet in thickness and exerts extreme pressure on the coalbed.

### SECTION F — MINE ORGANIZATION

Company officials:	Name	Address
19. President:	John A. Reeves, Sr.	P.O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
20. Superintendent:	Tom Scott	P.O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
21. Safety Director:	Ron Henderson	P.O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
22. Principle officer—H&S:	Tom Scott	P.O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
23. Labor Organization:	Redstone Workers Association,	0526 Hwy. 133, Carbondale, CO 81623
24. Chairman—H&S Committee:	Richard Lane	0526 Hwy. 133, Carbondale, CO 81623

### Commentary

On Friday, October 17, 1980, at 3:00 p.m., the 004-0 (2 north) section crew under the supervision of Bill Porter, section foreman, and the 001-0 (slopes) section crew under the supervision of Richard Gilmore, section foreman, entered the mine and traveled to their respective working sections. Normal mining activities were begun and continued until 7:45 p.m. At that time a rapid succession of noise and vibration occurred resulting in a coal outburst in the No. 6 slope between crosscuts No. 54 and No. 61. According to supervisory personnel, the outburst destroyed or severely damaged six permanent metal stoppings between the No. 5 and No. 6 slopes and severely damaged four permanent metal stoppings between the No. 3 and No. 4 slopes. Also, three metal overcasts located in the No. 3, No. 4, and No. 5 slopes were damaged. Richard Gilmore stated the ends of the overcasts buckled and were bowed up and outward. He also stated that a couple of the holes were large enough for a man to crawl through. When asked if all the damaged ventilating devices were leaking air excessively, Gilmore said, "yes." After the outburst occurred, Gilmore said he shut off the section power center and called the other sections and told them of the outburst. After that he and his three men examined the returns for the presence of methane gas and began a search to determine the effects of the outburst. After he found and examined it, he called Ken Spangler, master mechanic, and Tom Scott, superintendent, and informed them of the outburst. Scott stated he called the mine to check on the situation and he was told no injuries were suffered. He ordered safety precautions to be taken and the ventilation to be reestablished. After doing this he called John Turner, Vice President of Mid-Continent Resources, Inc., and told him about the accident. According to Scott, he and Turner discussed the accident and decided they had "done everything we could," and determined the accident to be non-reportable. Scott stated the longwall section was idle on this shift because he had 34 men "dump" work. The elk hunting season had begun on October 11, 1980, and he presumed the absent miners to be hunting.

According to Charles Dominguez, night shift mine foreman, the task of rebuilding and repairing the damaged stoppings and overcasts was begun shortly after the outburst occurred, continued through the weekend, and was completed between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. on October 20, 1980.

### Discussion and Evaluation

The investigation revealed the following factors relevant to the occurrence of the outburst of coal (bounce):

1. The outburst occurred on Friday, October 17, 1980, about 7:45 p.m.
2. The Mine Safety and Health Administration became aware of the accident on Wednesday, October 22, 1980, at 8:00 a.m. when this inspector read the mine foreman's on-shift report for October 17, 1980.
3. No personal injury was reported.



4. The coal outburst caused the withdrawal of miners and disrupted regular mining activity for more than one hour.
5. The coal outburst impaired ventilation.
6. The accident scene extended from crosscut No. 54 to crosscut No. 59 in the No. 3 and No. 4 slopes, a distance of approximately 500 feet and from crosscut No. 54 to crosscut No. 61 in the No. 5 and No. 6 slopes, a distance of approximately 700 feet.
7. The heaviest damage was in the No. 6 slope, the main return air course for the 301-0 longwall active working section. This slope was 6½ to 7 feet in height and 18 to 22 feet in width prior to the outburst. After the outburst the slope measured 16 inches to 5 feet in height and up to 32 feet 6 inches in width.
8. Thirteen permanent ventilating devices were either destroyed or damaged by the coal outburst.
9. According to the night shift mine examiner's on-shift report on October 17, 1980, a .9% volume of methane gas was detected after the coal outburst in the No. 6 slope.
10. According to slopes section crew, visibility was limited to approximately 12 inches and at a distance of 900 feet away from the accident it was difficult to breathe.
11. Because the accident scene was well rock dusted, it was impossible to determine how much float coal dust was deposited on the mine floor, ribs and roof.
12. The overburden in this area is in excess of 2,000 feet in thickness. Due to this natural condition, extreme pressure is exerted on the coal bed which creates severe rib sloughage and coal outbursts were often experienced during development operations.
13. The last two reported and investigated coal outbursts were on September 9 and 16, 1980.

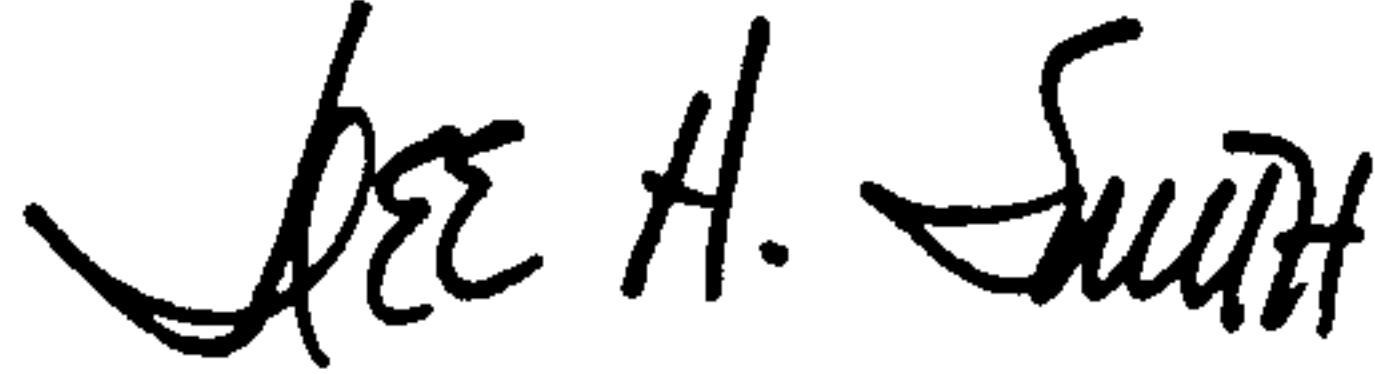
#### Findings of Fact

1. Evidence and findings of the investigation indicated there were no violations of Title 30 CFR which contributed to the occurrence of the accident.
2. After the accident occurred, the operator did not immediately contact the MSHA District or Subdistrict Office having jurisdiction over this coal mine, a violation of 50.10, 30 CFR.

Conclusion

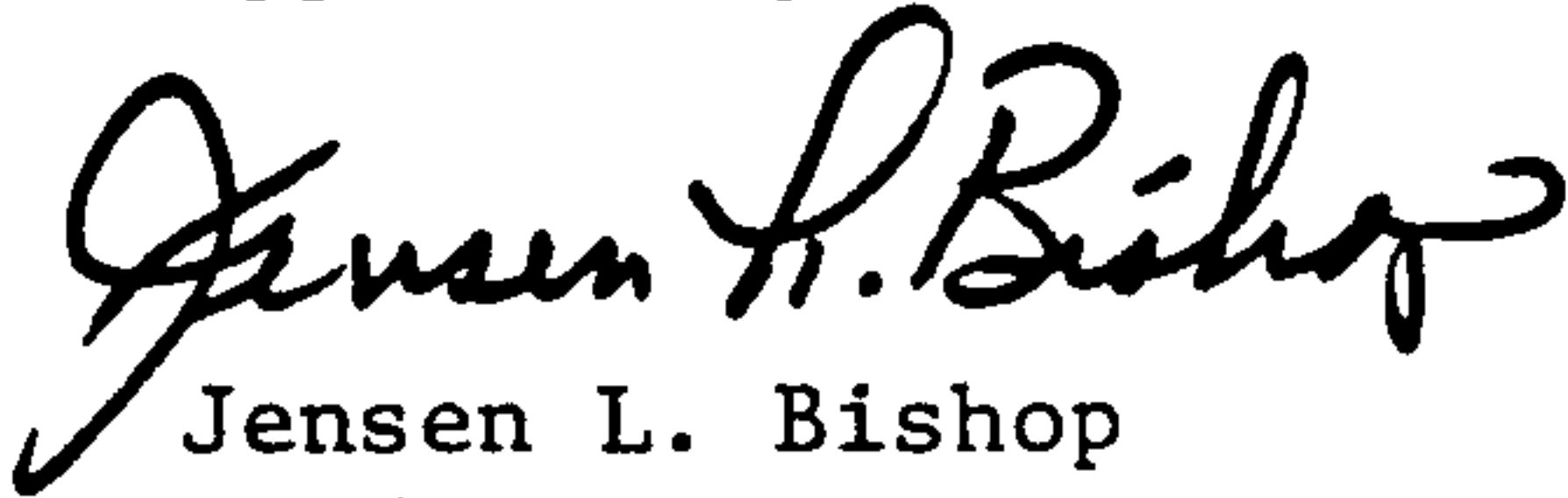
The accident occurred because of the overburden which is in excess of 2,000 feet in thickness and exerts extreme pressure on the coalbed.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee H. Smith  
Coal Mine Inspector

Approved by:



Jensen L. Bishop  
Subdistrict Manager



## APPENDIX

The investigation was conducted by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and those persons providing information and/or present during the investigation were:

### Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. Officials

Tom Scott	Superintendent
George Small	Mine Foreman
Charles Dominguez	Mine Foreman
Richard Gilmore	Section Foreman

### Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. Employees

Richard Lane	Representative of the Miners
Larry Pretti	Utility Man
James Hill III	Continuous Miner Operator Helper
Ron Sammeth	Mechanic

### Mine Safety and Health Administration

Lee H. Smith	Coal Mine Inspector
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